

The Supremacy of Christ


Part 6

Because of That, Do This...

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TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



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Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Triangle Community Church aims to be a "transforming church". We exist to be used by God as He transforms ordinary people into extraordinary followers of Jesus Christ. TCC believes not only that life-change is possible—but that it is to be expected. Growth is God's will for his people. But transformation does not happen by accident. It requires intentional, intelligent action. 1 Timothy 4:7 instructs you to "discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness." Since "Talking Points, Walking Points" is intended both for individual reflection and for group discussion, questions vary in degree of vulnerability required. Generally it is best to begin group discussions with questions which involve less personal disclosure—but don't linger there. Be sure to "dive deep" too! The questions which require the greatest openness and honesty, as well as those in the section entitled "Digging Deeper in your Daily Quiet Time", are perfect for private reflection.

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

- Today's *Talking Points, Walking Points* contain a "mechanical lay-out" of Colossians 3:1-17. (*Apologies to those with nightmares of grammar class. I promise—you'll really find this helpful!*) Looking at v. 1-4 (see ❶), circle "raised up" and "things above". What do you think those things are?

How exactly do we "keep seeking" those things? How do we "set our minds" on them? Are you?

According to v. 3, are we dead or are we alive? Which one is it?! How do you explain that?

Circle "manifested" (twice in v. 4). **Who all** will be gloriously manifested?

Back to this "dead or alive" motif—according to v. 4, who is our life?
- Looking at v. 5-11 (see ❷), Because of that, **to what** are we to consider our earthly bodies dead? Are you doing that?

This passage gives us two reasons why we must consider ourselves dead to those sins. What are they? Verse 5 begins with "therefore", so the first reason is given in v. 4. What is that reason?

Verse 6 begins with "On account of these things", and then gives the second reason. What is it?

Which one of those two reasons is the more powerful motivation for you—**and why?**
- OK—it's "dress up time" (v. 12-17; see ❸). Looking back to v. 10, what have we "put on"? And, looking back at v. 9, what is compared to old clothes that we've "taken off"?

Since we've taken off the old man and have put on the new man, what attitudes and practices must we now "put on"? Circle "put on" in v. 12 and 14, and then list everything we are told to put on.

1 Therefore,
 if you have been raised up with Christ,
 keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

3 For you died and your life has been hidden with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, who is our life, is manifested,
 then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

5 Therefore, consider the members of your earthly body as dead to
 sexual immorality,
 impurity,
 passion,
 evil desire, and
 greed,
 which is idolatry.

6 On account of these things, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.

8 But now you also, lay them all aside:
 wrath,
 anger,
 malice,
 slander, and
 abusive speech from your mouth.

9 Do not lie to one another,
 since you have taken off the old man with its evil practices,

10 and have put on the new man
 who is being renewed to a full knowledge
 according to the image of the One who created him —

11 a renewal in which there is no distinction between
 Greek and Jew,
 circumcised and uncircumcised,
 barbarian, Scythian,
 slave and freeman,
 but Christ is all and in all.

12 So, as the elect of God, holy and beloved,
 put on a heart of compassion,
 kindness,
 humility,
 gentleness, and
 patience;

13 bearing with one another, and
 graciously forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone,
 just as the Lord graciously forgave you,
 so also should you.

14 Above all these things put on love,
 which is the perfect bond of unity.

15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
 to which indeed you were called in one body,
 and be thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
 with all wisdom
 teaching and admonishing one another
 with psalms and
 hymns and
 spiritual songs,
 singing with gratefulness in your hearts to God.

17 And whatever you do in word or deed,
 do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
 giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) is a simple way to study any topic. Let's use it to explore the three-step "take off—put on" model of biblical life-change...

Monday—Read Ephesians 4:22-24 for the statement of the three steps involved in this model.

Tuesday— Read Ephesians 4:25 for the model applied to truth-telling.

Wednesday— Read Ephesians 4:26-27 for the model applied to resolution of anger.

Thursday— Read Ephesians 4:28 for the model applied to becoming a giver, not a taker.

Friday— Read Ephesians 4:29-30 for the model applied to speech that builds up, not tears down.

Saturday— In preparation for gathering to worship on the Lord's Day, read Colossians 3:18—4:1.

Five Question Bible Study

Bible Text: _____ Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]